# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# FINANCE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4379
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2002
NORMS FOR CUSTOMS CLEARANCE
CHANDRA NATH SINGH;SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK

**Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government have relaxed norms for customs examination of export consignments at ports to reduce clearance time for exporters;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to streamline/reduce the time to obtain customs clearance for imports?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) & (b) : Yes, Sir. The Government has relaxed the norms of examination for export goods as a trade facilitation measure to reduce the dwell time for exports. Under the revised norms, factory sealed export goods would not be examined at the gateway ports except where there is a specific intelligence. The exports under Drawback/DEPB Schemes have been divided into twocategories. Only 2% of the cargo would be examined in case of consignments where the amount of Drawback/DEPB involved is Rs.1 lakhor less. The corresponding figure is 10% for consignments where the amount of Drawback / DEPB involved is more than 1 lakh.Likewise, exports under EPCG/DEEC Schemes have alsobeen put into two categories depending upon the value of the consignments. The scale of examination is 2% for consignments where the FOB value is Rs.5 lakhs or less and thecorresponding figure is 10% for consignments where the FOB value is more than Rs.5 lakhs.

Having regard to the fact that the examination norms for export cargo have been lowered significantly, a little higher percentage of examination has been prescribed for export consignments sent to sensitive places, namely, Dubai, Sharjah, Singapore, Hong Kong and Colombo. The scale of examination varies between 25% to 50% depending upon the value of the consignments / amount of export incentive involved.

(c) : A number of measures have been taken to streamline/reduce the time to obtain customs clearance of imported goods. Some of the important measures are mentioned below:-

(i) Introduction of EDI at major ports, airports, ICDs/CFSs and Land Customs Stations for processing of Bills of Entry;

(ii) Fast Track Clearance Scheme toallow certain categories of importers to take clearance on the basis of self-assessment without any Customs assessment and examination of goods;

(iii) Green Channel Facility to allow clearance of goods imported by reputed importers without any Customs examination;

(iv) Two - shift working has been introduced at seven Air Cargo Complexes to allow clearance of imported goods from 8 AM to 10 PM on all working days. One shift working has also been introduced on holidays to allow clearance from 10 AM to 5 PM.

In addition to above, a number of measures such as simplification of transhipment procedures, consolidation of LCL cargo at gateway ports, import by Courier, etc., have also been taken to reduce the dwell time for imported goods.